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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,419	07/25/2001	Tomoyuki Oshiyama	826.1737	4145

21171 7590 10/08/2003

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EXAMINER	
HAVAN, THU THAO	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2672	4

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/911,419	OSHIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thu-Thao Havan	2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 July 2001* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3 .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims **1-31** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yumoto et al. (US patent no. 6,008,822) in view of Kumagai et al. (US patent no. 5,809,240).

Re claim **1**, Yumoto teaches an image generation system comprising a division unit dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images (col. 2, line 44 to col. 3, line 62), a providing unit providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices (col. 7, line 61 to col. 8, line 39), a distribution unit distributing a plurality of divided images obtained by division unit to corresponding image generation devices and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices (col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 5), a display unit displaying the divided image and the reference image in the image generation device (figs. 10 and 12-16a), and an integration unit integrating divided images generated (col. 9, lines 14-64).

In other words, Yumoto discloses a graphic processing method uses a system including a processing portion for dividing input graphic data in a block unit and executing a conversion processing of the graphic data to mask production data. When the graphic data is different from the graphic data registered to the optimization condition file, such as when the data quantity, the cell number, exceed the predetermined reference value, the graphic data inside the block is scanned so as to judge whether or not the data quantity of the graphic data existing inside the block exceeds the memory capacity in a processor for executing the conversion processing, and to judge the density and the property of the graphic data, such as the number of figures, the existence/absence of oblique lines, the graphic data is divided into the optimum blocks to the data quantity processable by the processor, and the graphic data is then converted to the mask data.

Yumoto *fails* to explicitly teach edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices as claimed. Kumagai, on the other hand, specifically teaches edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices (col. 7, lines 18-67; fig. 6a). In other words, Kamagai discloses a display screen is, composed of a title field for indicating a title of data to be processed for designing graphics, a message field for displaying a message sent from any other workstation, a command display field for displaying an editing command, and an editing screen for displaying all or part of an image to be designed. When data is to be manipulated in parallel by a plurality of people, the data to be processed for designing graphics is divided into the number of areas corresponding to the number of workstations, for example, four areas, and then allocated to the workstations. Data areas to be allocated to workstations overlap one

another so that the boundaries of the data areas are interpolated by the workstations. Data areas allocated to the workstations. An editing window screen and a menu window screen then appear as display screens on each workstation. An operator of each of the workstations WS1, WS2, WS3, and WS4 can manipulate data allocated to the workstation interactively using the mouse or keyboard. For example, when an operator enters a command for editing a screen at the workstation WS2, the command is input to the processor in the workstation WS1 over the network. When the command is input from the workstation WS2 to the processor, the event managing unit in the processor receives the command and transfers it to the command processing unit. The command processing unit references the workstation management table in the display window managing unit to retrieve the data area stored. If data manipulation is needed, the command processing unit issues a data manipulation request to the data division and data processing unit.

Therefore, having the combined teaching of Yumoto and Kumagai as a whole, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to modify the graphic processing step of Yumoto to have edit an image using a plurality of image generation devices as claimed. Doing so would enable changing divided images in a window screen and a menu window screen displaying on each workstation (Yumoto: col. 7, lines 46-67; fig. 6a).

Re claim **3**, the limitation of claim 3 is identical to claim 1 above except for a transmission unit. Therefore, claim 3 is treated with respect to grounds as set forth for claim 1 above. Kumagai teaches a transmission unit generating an image

corresponding to the divided image at an instruction of a user and transmitting the image to the image distribution device (col. 9, lines 43-58; col. 1, line 46 to col. 2, line 21) when he discloses data is manipulated as a hierarchical structure, that is, when an image is handled as a united body, and split into details and handled detail by detail, technological problems result in hierarchical structuring and file management. Moreover, after data is structured hierarchically because of the increase in amount, the data itself may grow to exceed an amount processable by one person. When data has a finely-hierarchical structure, the overall structure of the data becomes transparent to the users.

Re claims **2, 4-5, 7, and 22-26**, the limitation of claim 3 is identical to claim 1 above except for a transmission unit. Therefore, claim 3 is treated with respect to grounds as set forth for claim 1 above.

Re claims **6 and 27-31**, the limitation of claim 6 is identical to claims 1-2 above except for a storage medium. Therefore, claim 6 is treated with respect to grounds as set forth for claims 1-2 above. As for storage medium, Yumoto teaches a storage medium (col. 2, lines 44-59) when he discloses a storage portion having an optimization condition for storing the input data information.

Re claims **8-9, 12, and 15-21**, Yumoto discloses distribution unit distributes only a divided image requiring generation of a corresponding divided image to the image generation device (col. 9, lines 14-64).

Re claim **10**, Kumagai discloses each image generation device assigns the first identifier and at least one of the second and third identifiers to a generated or edited

divided image and integration unit integrates divided images based on identifiers assigned to divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices (figs. 7 and 13). As shown in figure 13, if event processing is activated, a workstation in which an event occurs is identified. If the event occurs in the same workstation as the one that has been considered so far, control is passed. The system acts as if it were a single-workstation system. If the event occurs in a workstation different from the one that has been considered so far, the environments specified in the internal tables are modified to be consistent with the workstation at which the event is currently entered. In other words, as shown in figure 7, the current values specified in the main management table are rewritten according to an occurring event. Control is then passed. The system then acts as if it were a single-workstation system.

Re claims **11 and 13-14**, Yumoto discloses distribution unit distributes time series information defining moving picture to be generated together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device and image generation device generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to the received divided images according to the time series information (col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 5).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yumoto et al., US patent no. 5,936,642

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu-Thao Havan whose telephone number is (703) 308-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Thu-Thao Havan
Art Unit: 2672
October 2, 2003

MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600